

Victorian Period

(came after the Regency period and before the Edwardian period)

Location – Victorian period refers to a period of time in England – but was copied in overseas English colonies (such as Australia).

The Victorian Period was a period of time between June 1837-January 1901 when **Queen Victoria** (1819 -1901) ruled England.

The Victorian Period was characterised by a period of excesses by the aristocracy, the expanding British Empire and increasing development and poverty.

Queen Victoria – was Queen of England for 63 years. Her official titles were; Queen of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (1837 – 1901) and the Empress of India (1876 – 1901). She reigned longer than any other British monarch to date. Though Victoria ascended the throne at a time when the United Kingdom was already a Constitutional Monarchy in which the King or Queen had very few political powers, she still served as a very important symbolic figure of her age.

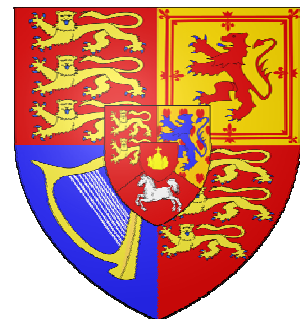
A Constitutional Monarchy is one in which the Monarch is ceremonial head of state but where the parliament is the body to really hold power.

Victoria's reign marked the height of the **Industrial Revolution** where England led the way in the world in terms of new industrial and scientific developments as well as the expansion of the **British Empire**.

Alexandrina Victoria (her proper name) was the granddaughter of King George III. She was a niece of King William IV (younger brother of King George IV of the Regency Period).

William IV was the father of ten illegitimate children but none of his legitimate children survived so the throne went to the nearest relative – Victoria. Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent, served as her regent until she turned 18 and could become the Queen. Victoria was pure German and from the German royal family – the House of Hanover.

She met her first cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha when she was 17 in 1836 and fell in love with him. They were married in 1840 when she was 21 years of age.

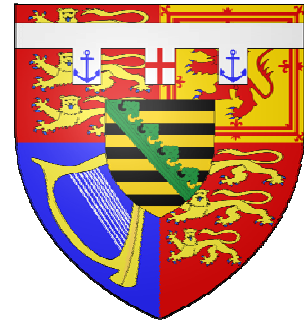


House of Hanover
coat of arms

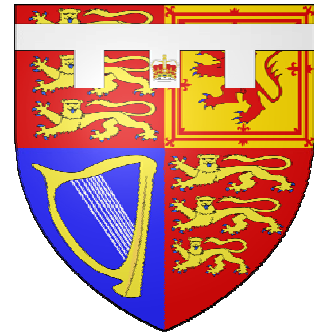
Queen Victoria – marriage and family life – The Queen married her first cousin, Prince Albert, in 1840. They had a very happy marriage until his death of typhoid in 1861. Victoria was deeply affected by Albert's death. She entered a deep state of mourning and wore black until her death in 1901.

Queen Victoria arranged marriages for her nine children and forty-two grandchildren to royal families across Europe and so ensured that the British royal family were tied by blood to all the royal families of Europe. She was popularly known as “the grandmother of Europe”.

Her second child, the son Edward VII (1841 – 1910) became King after her. He was the first of the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (after his father Prince Albert - Queen Victoria was the last in the line of the House of Hanover). His eldest son, George V (1865 – 1936), became King after him. George V anglicised the Saxe-Coburg family (during World War I when Germany was the enemy of England) and changed the royal family's name to Windsor. His son, Edward VIII (1894 – 1972) succeeded to the throne in 1936 but abdicated the throne in 1937 so that he could marry the American divorcee, Wallis Simpson. His younger brother, George VI (1895 – 1952) succeeded him to the throne and George VI's daughter, Elizabeth II (1926 -- current Queen) succeeded him.



House of Saxe-Coburg coat of arms



House of Windsor coat of arms



Wedding 1840



Wedding 1840



Queen Victoria 1887



Queen Victoria 1897



Queen Victoria memorial Buckingham Palace

Queen Victoria – death – Queen Victoria had numerous assassination attempts on her life but she survived all of them. She died during the Xmas period, in Jan 1901, from cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 81. She was buried in a white dress and her wedding veil. England went into deep mourning at her death.

Class System - The class system was rigidly upheld during the Victorian Period. The old class landowners, the Church and the Royals defined and directed life in a society where there were **huge disparities between rich and poor**.

Peerage – Until 1999, all **Peers (Lords)** could sit in the House of Lords. Peeresses only received this right in 1963. Peers were directly under Royalty (King, Prince). The order of peerage currently in England is (in successive order) – Duke, Marquess, Earl, Viscount & Baron. Peerage goes through the eldest male heir – and if no sons then it goes to the nearest male relative. Some titles can go to a female heir and a father could petition the King or Queen to pass down title and property to the eldest heir if it is female – however this is rare. Correct title for Peers include – ‘Your Grace’ or ‘His Grace/Her Grace’ for a Duke/Duchess, ‘My Lord’ ‘My Lady’ for a Marquess/Marchioness, Earl/Countess and Viscount/Viscountess and ‘Sir’ ‘My Lady’ for a Baron/Baroness. When a peer dies, his title passes on to his nearest male relative and his wife received the title of ‘Dowager Duchess/Marchioness/Countess/Viscountess/Baroness’ and usually moves to a smaller house on the property entitled the ‘Dowager Cottage’ especially built for that purpose.

Entailed property often accompanied peerage. Entailed property means land and houses that are attached to the title and therefore only the male heir can inherit. Entailed property cannot be sold and in the event of a family line dying out, it goes back to the reigning Monarch. Entailed property is not only attached to peerage. Gentlemen landowners often had entailed property that could only be passed down to the eldest male heir (ie in Jane Austen’s ‘Pride and Prejudice’ – none of Mr Bennett’s five daughters can inherit his property and upon his death all will go to his nearest male relative – Mr Collins)

Victorian architecture & art – followed a number of different styles. Many older styles were revived.

Gothic revival - literature and architecture with a gothic slant became popular in the Regency period (and has never lost its popularity since)

The Goths were an original Germanic tribe that hassled the Roman Empire and eventually brought down the Roman Empire.

Gothic art and architecture were popular during the Middle Ages but had a revival during the Regency and Victorian period. Gothic architecture is featured by pointed arches and features prominently in the construction of castles, cathedrals, town halls and universities.

Gothic art, which was popular during the Middle Ages and mostly Christian, never really had a revival during the Regency period.

Arts & Craft movement – focus on authentic representations of the **natural world** (reaction against the Industrial Revolution). Focus on presenting human beings in their natural state looking as realistic as possible. During the Victorian era, there was a lot of focus on portraiture.

In architecture – there is a concentration on simple lines and simplicity in general, in building structures.

Italianate (Renaissance Revival) – followed **palladian or neoclassical** styles of the Ancient Romans, built in the style of the **Roman forum**.

Jacobean – inspired by the building of the **Tudor period** with grandiose arches.



**Arts & Craft movement –
natural realism**

Painted ladies – style of painting buildings in three or more colours (usually **pastel colours**)

Art Nouveau – **floral and plant-inspired motifs**, flowing and curved lines.

Anglo-Japanese style – art work in the Victorian era was inspired by **Asian influences**.

Aesthetic movement – incorporated styles with **gilt highlights** (gold), Japanese influence, prominent use of natural images, blue and white on porcelain and china.

for some good examples of Victorian art and architectural style – look up on Google images

Victorian furnishings – were characterised by elegant furnishings influenced by **Grecian/Roman styles** as well as **natural images**. Furniture tended to be carved with circular styles. Dark wood was popular for furniture and there was a concentration of comfort with soft furnishings and well-padded chairs. Furniture was often **gilded** (with gold). Wallpaper tended to be darker than the pastel colours of the Regency period and focused often on colours of nature such as greens and browns. Maroon was also a popular colour. Wallpaper tended to be patterned and cover the walls from floor to ceiling.



for some good examples of Victorian furniture and furnishings – look up on Google images

Victorian Etiquette – Victorian society had a very strict code of social behaviour.

It is essential that you look at the following two websites on **Victorian Etiquette** and read the links

<http://members.aol.com/alfson102/etiquette.htm>

<http://www.victorianstation.com/lifestylemenu.htm>

<http://www.ladiesofreenacting.com/Victorianetiquette.html>

<http://home.kendra.com/victorianrituals/Victor/ritualsll.htm>

<http://www.burrows.com/other/manners.html>

Education – Generally **education** was not equal between the sexes nor between the classes. Teachers were very strict and a vast majority of the population in Victorian times did not gain any education at all beyond very rudimentary reading and writing.

Excellent and simple explanations of Victorian schooling -

<http://www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk/time/victorian/vschool.html>

<http://pagesperso-orange.fr/college.saintebarbe/victoria/children.htm>

<http://www.megaessays.com/viewpaper/75532.html>

Victorian Fashion – Victorian fashion changed quite dramatically from year to year.

Women - The Regency period of the early 1800's had been dominated by slender fashions that hugged the figure and resembled Grecian statues.

The fashions of the 1830s in the Victorian era were about wide shoulders and wide hips. The skirts were large and conical in shape and the narrow, low waist was achieved through a tight corset.



Typical Victorian women's fashion 1830s



Hourglass corset



Typical Regency women's dress

Thick **brocade** material (heavily woven) became popular to achieve the starched and stiff image of the dresses rather than the free-flowing, draped Regency style.

Sleeves were large as a way of emphasising a smaller waist.

Pelerines, or laced over-coverings were popular to drape around the shoulders.

It was important for women to wear gloves when outdoors, making social visits or going to balls.

Women's underclothes consisted of a knee-length chemise, drawers, an hourglass corset and layers of starched petticoats.

Evening gowns followed the same features as above but tended to have even wider shoulders and skirts.

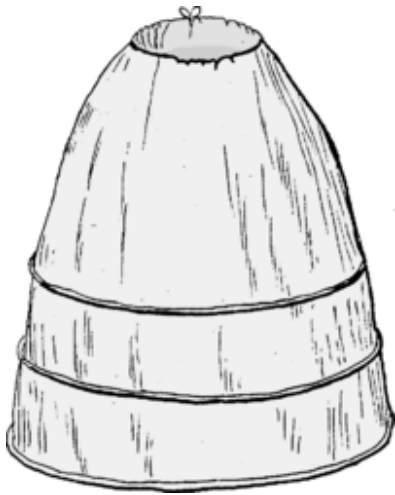
Hairstyles were popular to be parted in the middle with elaborate curls, knots, loops and plaits down the side and back. A popular style was to twirl the plaits around the ear and pin at behind the head.

Bonnets with wide semi-circular brims were very popular.

By the 1840s – the arms had become softer and rounder and more feminine hats replaced the large bonnets.



1840s fashion – softer shapes, particularly in the shoulders and softer hairstyles



1850s hoopskirt



1850s crinoline



1850s women's fashion

By the 1850s – skirts were becoming wider (and even wider in the 1860s) and now shaped by **crinoline** and **hoops** (made from whale bone or cane) rather than just layers of petticoats. Skirts were made even larger by flounces and bunching materials together.

1870s saw a return to the fashion of the narrow shape although not as free-flowing as the Regency period. Waists were tight (with the help of a corset) and skirts were figure-hugging at the front and had a **bustle** at the back. A bustle was like a mini-hoop at the back of the skirt.

Dresses were trimmed with ribbons and pleats and were more elaborate depending on day wear or evening wear.



1870s bustle



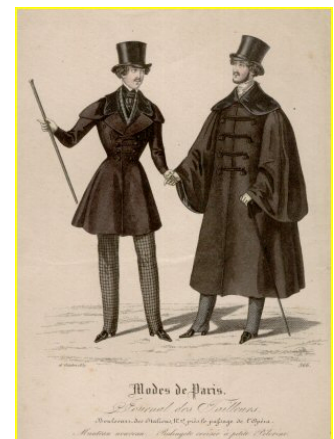
The 1880s kept the bustle but became more free-flowing with widening shoulders. In the 1890s dress became plainer, being gathered in at the waist and falling around the hips. The bustle became smaller and until it was not used at all. Skirt length's started shortening.



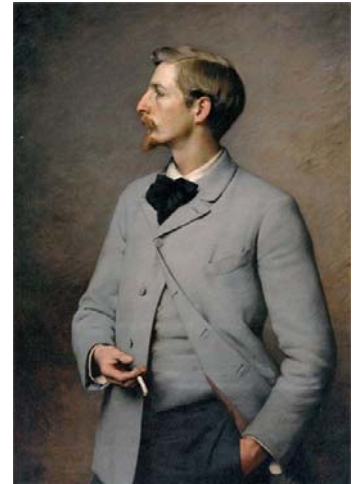
Fashions of the 1890s



Men – in the 1830s, men's fashion shows the ideal as being broad shoulders and narrow waists. Shirts of linen and cotton were increasingly popular and collars more often worn spread open or with loose cravats rather than with the tight and high cravats made popular in previous eras. Frocks coats (short coats) were increasingly important. Full-length trousers replaced the previous knee-length breeches. Men also wore their hair parted to the side but in a less elaborate style than women. Cloaks and overcoats with wide sleeves were worn (like a poncho).



Gradually through the Victorian era from 1840s to 1890s, men's fashion became more relaxed and closer resembling the modern business suit.



Victorian Entertainment – This very much depended on the social class.

Gambling was popular amongst all social classes (but they would not mix together to gamble) Casinos were very popular at the time.

Going to the park to a bandstand and listening to a brass band were popular by all classes.

Magic acts and hypnotism were very popular events to attend.

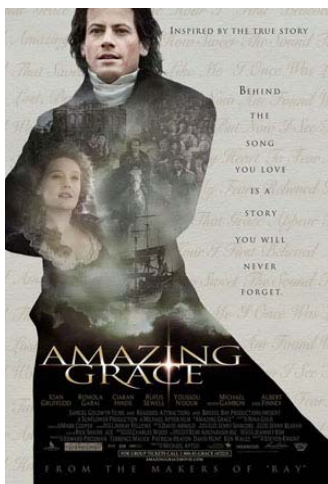
People enjoyed going to the theatre, art galleries and the opera was incredibly popular (especially comic opera).

For further information – go to

<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/rbx/exhibitions/Victorian%20Entertainments/home/home.html>

Victorian morality

Historians now regard the Victorian era as a time of many contradictions and hypocrisy's. There were many social movements concerned with improving public morals co-existed with a class system that permitted harsh living conditions for many. The apparent contradiction between the widespread development of an outward appearance of dignity and restraint and the prevalence of social problems that included prostitution and child labour were two sides of the same coin. Various social reform movements and high principles arose from attempts to improve the harsh condition



Victorian Society - there is a tendency to see the Victorian period as a time of elegance and constant balls. Whilst some people of the upper class lived almost frozen in time with their heads in a metaphorical bubble, there were great changes happening.

There were **movements of women against the social restrictions of their time** and in many cases this is the birth of the women's liberation movement.

There were also **movements against slavery**, led by the very famous William Wilberforce, who thanks to his tireless efforts and others like him, the British Empire abolished slavery in 1807 (achieved royal assent – royal stamp of approval). He was also a tireless social reformer in other areas such as rights for the poor and women. The 2006 film Amazing Grace is based on his life and I strongly urge you to watch it.

<http://www.apple.com/trailers/independent/amazinggrace/>

Women's Rights – "IT is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife. However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be on his first entering a neighbourhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the surrounding families, that he is considered as the rightful property of some one or other of their daughters."

Above are the opening lines of Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice' opening up Austen's satirical commentary of women's roles within Regency and Victorian England. Women were meant to be only concerned with issues to do with marriage and childbirth as well as the gentler arts but many women were interested in more things than this. This meant that Victorian period was characterised by tensions between the sexes. Some women did seem to rise above their discrimination and seek out careers as novelists and business women but this was rare. It was more common during the Victorian era than anytime previous, for women to have a broader education.

A very influential text of the time was **Mary Wollstonecraft's text 'A Vindication of the Rights of Women' (1792)** in which she did not directly state men and women are equal but her text does call for equality between men and women in various aspects of society such as marriage, morality and economic considerations.

Other women activists at the time can be read about by going to <http://www.victorianweb.org/history/index.html> and clicking on the links for women's suffrage (right to vote)

Politics – On the one hand the Victorian period was a time of **conservatism** and on the other there were bold movements for **social reform**. These tensions within society often show up in the literature and poetry of the day. There was a constant struggle to be independent and an individual in a society that preached conformity and rigid social structures.

Whigs and Tories – politics in England during this time was divided into two camps:

- ☆ **the Whigs** – who believed that the politicians were put in place to rule for the people and were answerable to the people – more inclined to consider social reform.
- ☆ **the Tories** – believed in the divine right of the King to rule as well as the Lords.

Parliament was divided into the House of Lords (male peers) and the House of Commons which were often landed gentry or wealthy people in society. Entry to the House of Commons was guaranteed by patronage by Lords in the area. Once this was decided there was limited franchise (voting) by males but only those who owned land and were over the age of 21.

Prime Ministers in the Victorian Period

Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington (the famous hero of Waterloo)	22 January 1828	16 November 1830	Tory
Charles, Earl Grey	22 November 1830	9 July 1834	Whig
William Lamb, second Viscount Melbourne	16 July 1834	14 November 1834	Whig
Sir Robert Peel-overview	10 December 1834	8 April 1835	Tory/Conservative
Lord Melbourne	18 April 1835	30 August 1841	Whig
Sir Robert Peel	30 August 1841	29 June 1846	Conservative
Lord John Russell	30 June 1846	21 February 1852	Whig
Edward George Geoffrey Smith Stanley, Lord Derby	23 February 1852	17 December 1853	Tory
George Hamilton-Gordon, fourth Earl of Aberdeen	19 December 1852	30 January 1855	Conservative

Henry John Temple, Viscount Palmerston	6 February 1855	19 February 1858	Whig
Lord Derby	20 February 1858	11 June 1859	Tory
Lord Palmerston	12 June 1859	18 October 1865	Whig
Lord John Russell	29 October 1865	26 June 1866	Whig
Lord Derby	28 June 1866	25 February 1868	Tory
Benjamin Disraeli-overview	27 February 1868	1 December 1868	Tory
William Gladstone --overview	3 December 1868	17 February 1874	Liberal
Benjamin Disraeli	20 February 1874	21 April 1880	Tory
William Gladstone	23 April 1880	9 June 1885	Liberal
Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne-Cecil, third Marquis of Salisbury	23 June 1885	28 January 1886	Conservative
William Gladstone	1 February 1886	20 July 1886	Liberal
Lord Salisbury	25 July 1886	11 August 1892	Conservative
William Gladstone	15 August 1892	2 March 1894	Liberal
Archibald Philip Primrose, fifth Earl of Rosebery	5 March 1894	22 June 1895	Liberal
Lord Salisbury	25 June 1895	11 July 1902	Conservative

In the Victorian period there was a **growing Middle Class** (factory and business owners from the Industrial Revolution)) who were increasing in number and demanding a role in the House of Commons.

Generally the poor working classes had no one looking out for them except well-meaning peers or Middle Class. Mostly Peers and Middle Classes did not support the causes of the poor because it would mean a loss of money and position for them. Gradually power-structures were changed in the Victorian era and the Upper classes and Middle Classes had to start sharing power in the Lower Classes.

There were a number of reform acts during the Victorian period to increase the franchise (voting rights) of people in Victorian England – particularly the lower classes. The three Reform Acts, of 1832, 1867, and 1884, all extended voting rights to previously disfranchised citizens.

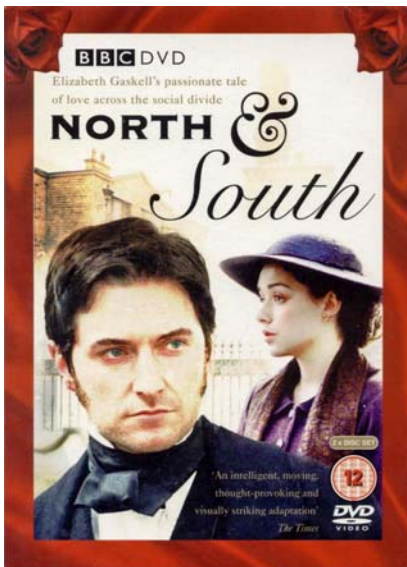
The 1867 Reform Act extended the right to vote still further down the class ladder, adding just short of a million voters — including many workingmen — and doubling the electorate, to almost two million in England and Wales. It, too, created major shock waves in contemporary British culture.

The 1884 bill (law) and the **1885 Redistribution Act** tripled the electorate again, giving the vote to most agricultural laborers. By this time, voting was becoming a right rather than the property of the privileged. However, women were not granted voting rights until the **Act of 1918**, which enfranchised all men over 21 and women over thirty. This last bit of discrimination was eliminated 10 years later (in **1928**) by the **Equal Franchise Act**.

For more information go to <http://www.victorianweb.org/history/index.html>

Economy – The Victorian Period was affected greatly by the **Industrial Revolution**.

The Industrial Revolution began in England in the latter part of the 1700s. This means that the



means of production changes from mostly manual labour (people) to machinery (at this stage mostly controlled by steam).

This had huge social repercussions on life in England. It meant that many people were put out of work. There was a huge movement from countryside to cities to look for work, also a rise in development of slums and poverty. There was no social security to protect these people out of work.

It also meant the growth of factories emitting pollution. By and large industry grew up in the North (cities like Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool) and the south (London) remained frozen in a much calmer period of time. A novel like 'North and South' by

Elizabeth Gaskell – made into a BBC miniseries (2004) which I highly recommend you to watch.

You cannot look at the Regency

period without taking into consideration the growing industrialisation, poverty, divisions between rich and poor and moves for social reform (as well as resulting growth in conservatism).



Original Steam Engine in a museum in England

1802 Factory Act

1833 Factory Act

For a comprehensive understanding of the terrible conditions in Factory's and attempts to reform in you need to go to the excellent website -

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/IRchild.main.htm>

Workhouses – were a common feature of the Victorian era. These were places where the poor could go to work and live. The conditions in the workhouses were appalling and kept so because it was believed that this would inspire the people to go out and look after themselves. The people ate poor meals in silence, were often humiliated, lived in mass dormitories (separated men and women, even husbands and wives) in flea infested beds and were often purposely humiliated. Discipline was harsh and abuse either by the people running the institute or other inmates, was common. It was up to the Master to decide to take in a person to the workhouse and they could also decide (without reason) to make an inmate leave. Inmates completed hard labour for payment for accommodation.

For further information <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Workhouse>

Technology and Science – Obviously industrialisation brought many new inventions as well as the ability to make products quicker and more efficiently. It was during this time that modern (permanent) **photography** came about.

Gas lighting became a feature of the Victorian era – so now buildings could be lit by gas lamps rather than candlelight (similar to modern electric lights) and street lights became a feature of the landscape. Gas was also used to heat homes (only upper class and middle class homes). During the Victorian era – the **sewerage system** of London was built and over 1,600 km of sewers were built. (Modern sewerage system only affected upper class and middle class homes). Also **water pipes** were built to deliver tap water to homes (only affected upper class and middle class homes).



The **London Underground** was built in 1854 (the first in the world) and expanded so that train travel became possible.

In 1882, **electric lights** were introduced to London to the better class neighbourhoods.

The Origin of Species by Charles Darwin (1859) – developed a theory about human history and evolution. Very influential at the time and even till today.

Imperialism – famous saying of the time - “The Sun never sets on the British Empire” because its span across the globe ensured that the sun was always shining on at least one of its numerous colonies.

During the Victorian Era, the **British Empire** grew in size and influence to become the greatest Empire on earth. Britain controlled areas in every continent in the world and developed British pride and arrogance as well as moral/racial superiority. This also worked to spread English culture and language to the four corners of the world.

By 1921 (just a little after the Victorian Era) – the British Empire controlled the population of 458million or ¼ of the world’s population.

Romanticism – literary and artistic movement that arose in the Regency and Victorian period. It was a reaction against the horrors of the industrial movement and a turning back to the glory and beauty of the English and Classical (Ancient Greece and Rome) past before Industrial Revolution. **Romanticist writing and art** exhibits a predominance of natural images and pastel colours. There was a focus in particular on the beauty of the literary or artistic form and Romanticist writers/artists were the superstars of their day, many choosing to live lives that defied social rules. Often they lived in artistic communities and broke many of the social rules and regulations. Many of the conservative elements of society on the one hand admired the Romantics and the other hand abhorred their style of living.

Satire – was used commonly by many writers of the day. It is characterised by a combination of irony and sarcasm.

Gothic literature – incorporates both elements of horror and romance. Features of Gothic literature commonly include – supernatural elements, ghosts, haunted houses, gothic architecture, castles, darkness, decay, doubles, madness, secrets, hereditary curses. Gothic genre usually relies on archetypal characters ie the hero, the tyrant, the femme fatale, ghosts, the damsel in distress etc. It follows much of the style of the previous **Georgian and Regency period** with a focus on classical elegance.

Victorian Literature – reading was a popular pastime amongst the upper-classes and increasingly so amongst the lower-classes.

Victorian novels tended to incorporate features of satire and be incredibly descriptive in development of time/place and characterisation. They followed a traditional narrative structure, relating the story in a sequential, chronological order.

Famous writers included:

Jane Austen – wrote during the Regency period but still very popular in the Victorian period - ‘Pride and Prejudice’, ‘Emma’, ‘Mansfield Park’, ‘Sense and Sensibility’, ‘Northanger Abbey’ and ‘Persuasion’ – in addition she wrote a lot of juvenilia available on internet.

Benjamin D’Israeli – formerly British Prime Minister 1868, 1874-1880 (only Jewish person to be elected as PM) – was a novelist – most famous novel is ‘Sybil’ a novel that studies the condition for the working classes in England in the Victorian era.

George Elliot (real name Mary Ann Evans) – prolific writer of the day – her famous novels include ‘The Mill on the Floss’, ‘Silas Marner’, ‘Middlemarch’ and ‘Daniel Deronda’ (Jewish character and themes).

Elizabeth Gaskell – famous writer at the time that studied the disparities between rich and poor, northern England (industrialization) and southern England (conservative). Her famous novels include; 'Mary Barton', 'Ruth', 'North and South' and 'Wives and Daughters'.

Thomas Hardy – famous English novelist, short story writer and poet – focused his stories on studying village life. He often glamorised a life that was dying out with modernisation and industrialisation. His famous novels include; 'Under the Greenwood Tree', 'Far from the Madding Crowd', 'The Return of the Native', 'The Mayor of Casterbridge', 'Tess of the D'urbervilles' and 'Jude the Obscure'. Many of these novels have been made into movies.

Rudyard Kipling – incredibly popular prolific English writer that lived in India for most of his life. He is famous for his books 'Just So Stories', 'Gunga Din', 'The Jungle Book', 'Kim' and 'The Man Who Would Be King' (excellent). Many of his stories are famous for exposing the racism and bias of the English in their overseas colonies.

William Thackeray – most famous for 'Vanity Fair'

Anthony Trollope – prolific writer of famous novels such as 'He Knew He Was Right', 'The Way We Live Now' and 'Phineas Finn'.

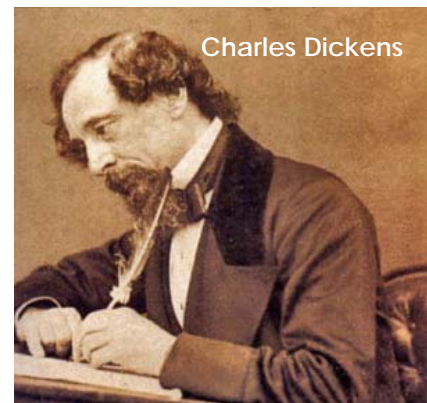
Beatrix Potter – writer of 23 very popular children's books such as 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit'. Recently an excellent movie has been made of her life – 'Miss Potter' (2006) starring Renee Zellweger.



Profile on a giant of Victorian Literature - Charles Dickens

(1812 - 1870) – is still to this day considered one of the leading writers in English. He lived and wrote during the Victorian period and it is through writers like him (but particularly him) that the novel became the leading form of literature in English. Dickens was considered a master of prose, in creating interesting characters and storylines that have been re-created over time. His novels were originally serialized for magazines (ie a chapter a week) and are characterised with the cliffhanger ending to each chapter which gets explained in the beginning of the following chapter (much like a modern soap-opera). As well as being a novelist, he practiced Journalism.

His famous novels included; 'Pickwick Papers', 'Oliver Twist', 'The Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby', 'David Copperfield', 'Bleak House', 'A Tale of Two Cities', (excellent), 'Great Expectations' (excellent) and 'Our Mutual Friend'.

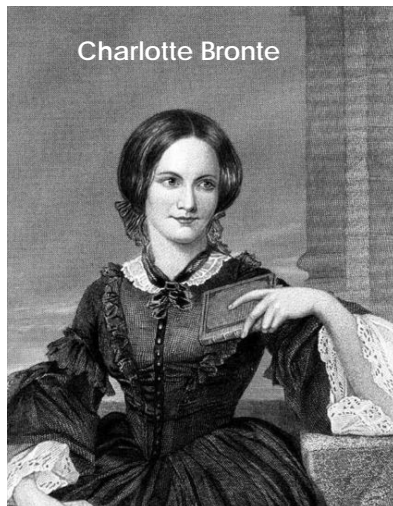


Profile on three giants of Victorian Literature – the Bronte Sisters – three famous novelist sisters. They were the daughter of a poor clergyman and none of them ever married. They all died quite young at the beginning of great literary careers.

Charlotte Bronte (1816 – 1855) – wrote many novels – the most famous one was 'Jane Eyre'.

Emily Bronte (1818 – 1848) – her most famous novel was 'Wuthering Heights'

Anne Bronte (1820 – 1849) – her most famous novels were 'Agnes Grey' & 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall'



Charlotte Brontë



Emily Brontë



Anne Brontë

Supernatural, Horror and Fantastical texts – were very popular in the Victorian era. Some examples of writers in this genre include -

Arthur Conan Doyle – created the famous Sherlock Holmes series about a detective during the Victorian era. Incredibly popular in the Victorian era and popular today as well.

Mary Shelley – 'Frankenstein' – very popular during the Regency era and considered an important and influential text today in the gothic genre.

Bram Stoker – wrote the incredibly popular novel 'Dracula' which is still popular today about the original Vampire – Count Dracula.

Robert Louis Stevenson – wrote the very popular novel in the study of split personality/dissociative behaviour called 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' about a man who transforms from a good character to an evil character who perpetrates terrible deeds. Another famous adventure novel he wrote is 'Treasure Island'.

Lewis Carroll (real name – Charles Lutwidge Dodson) – prolific writer of fantasy. Most famous text is 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'.

H.G.Wells – writer of many famous science fiction texts such as 'The Invisible Man' (about – you guessed it – a man who has the ability to turn invisible and the havoc it causes on his life), 'The Island of Dr Moreau', 'The Time Machine' (about time travel), 'The War of the Worlds' (about alien invasion), 'The Sleeper Awakes' (about a man who falls asleep for 200 years and wakes up to a very different London) and 'The First Men in the Moon'. His novels and short stories have been made and re-made countless times into movies and continue to be popular today.

Jules Verne – French author but very influential in the Victorian era in England – wrote many famous science fiction novels and together with H.G.Wells is known as one of the two 'fathers of science fiction'. Some of his famous novels and short stories include 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth', '20,000 leagues under the Sea' and 'Around the World in Eighty Days'. Many of his stories have been made and re-made into movies and continue to be popular today.

Victorian Poets – the Romantic poets of the Regency period were still incredibly popular in the Victorian period (& the name of some of their more famous poems).

Percy Bysshe Shelley – 'Prometheus Unbound', 'Ode to the West Wind'

John Keats – 'Hyperion', 'Ode on a Grecian Urn', 'Ode to a Nightingale'

Alfred, Lord Tennyson – 'The Lady of Shallot', 'Ulysses'

Robert Browning – 'Porphyria's Lover', 'My Last Duchess'

Lord Byron – 'Don Juan'

Samuel Taylor Coleridge – 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner', 'Kubla Khan', 'This Lime-Tree Bower My Prisoner'

William Wordsworth – 'Lines Composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey', 'Strange Fits of Passion I have Known', 'I wandered lonely as a cloud'

William Blake – 'Songs of Innocence'

Christina Rossetti – 'Goblin Market' and collection of smaller poems

Elizabeth Barrett Browning – 'Aurora Leigh'

Victorian plays – Shakespeare was very popular during the Victorian era. Also popular was **farces, burlesques, extravaganzas** and **comic operas**.

George Bernard Shaw (1856 – 1950) – was a dramatist of the Victorian era and the subsequent Edwardian era. He wrote many famous satirical plays that reflected the hypocrisy's of the time such as; 'Major Barbara', 'Pygmalion', 'The Man and Destiny' and 'Man and Superman'.

Oscar Wilde (1854 – 1900) – was a dramatist of the Victorian era. He wrote many famous satirical plays that reflected the hypocrisy's of the time such as; 'The Ideal Husband', 'Lady Windermere's Fan' and 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. He is still incredibly famous and popular today.



Non-fiction writers

John Stuart Mill – British economist, philosopher and Member of Parliament. Developed ideas of 'utilitarianism' – philosophy of achieving happiness in society.

Thomas Carlyle – essayist and satirist whose work was very influential during the Victorian era. He philosophised on life in modern society.

Thomas Babington Macauley – an influential historian of the time who wrote a number of influential historical works.

Frederich Engels – wrote his influential work 'The Condition of the Working Classes in Britain 1844'. Later he would write one of the most influential texts of all time with Karl Marx called 'The Communist Manifesto' (1848) which became the basis of Socialism and Communism.

Empire offshoots – writers of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand were classified as Victorian writers and shared many similar characteristics but were also developing their own distinctive voices dependent on the development of their countries.

Some of the famous American writers of the time included:

Emily Dickinson – poetry

Ralph Waldo Emerson – poet and essayist

Henry James – was a prolific writer of novels, novellas, short stories, travel writing, plays, essays and literary criticism – some of his famous novels included 'The American', 'The Europeans', 'Washington Square', 'Portrait of a Lady' (adapted into a film in 1996 starring Nicole Kidman and John Malkovich), 'The Wings of the Dove', 'The Golden Bowl' (adapted into a film in 2000 starring Uma Thurman, Nick Nolte, Kate Beckingsale & Jeremy Northam). One of his famous short stories includes – 'The Turn of the Screw'.

Herman Melville – was a prolific writer of novels, short stories, poems and plays – his most famous work is the novel 'Moby Dick'.

Harriet Beecher Stowe – concerned herself with the issue of black slavery in America and wrote novels her most famous being 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'.

Henry David Thoreau – wrote mainly essays that were revolutionary in their approach and preached civil disobedience.

Mark Twain – very famous essayist and novelist – his most famous novels include; 'The Prince and the Pauper', 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn', 'A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court' and 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.'

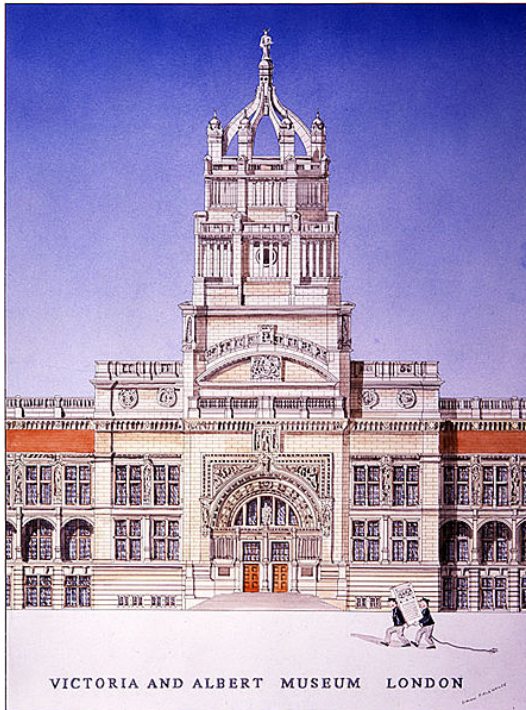
Walt Whitman – was a prolific poet during the Victorian era and preached civil disobedience.

The Great Exhibition – also known as Crystal Palace was an **International Exhibition of great works of science and industry** held in Hyde Park in London from 1st May 1851 to 15th October 1851. It was organised by the 'Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce' as a celebration of modern industrial achievement and the greatness of the British Empire. A special building known as the Crystal Palace was built for the exhibition (and dismantled afterwards) and 6million people visited the Exhibition.

Read more on The Great Exhibition on <http://www.victorianstation.com/palace.html>

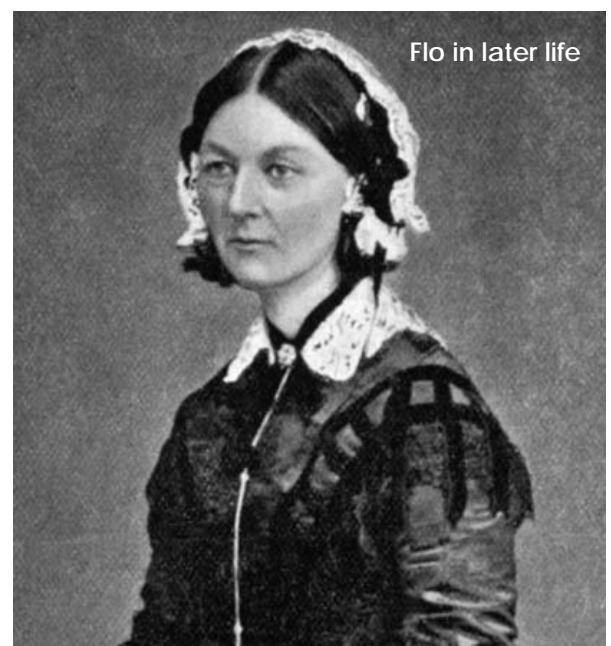


Victoria and Albert Museum – often known as the ‘V&A’ – was founded in 1852 by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert using profits from the Great Exhibition. The museum has over 145 galleries (over 4.5 million objects) and holds art and cultural artifacts from all corners of the world. The purpose of the museum was really to promote the greatness of the British Empire.



Famous people – use the following website as a starting place for researching famous people of the Victorian era: <http://www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk/time/victorian/vpeople.html>

One famous person of the Victorian era – Florence Nightingale known as ‘The Lady with the Lamp’ was a pioneering nurse and writer. At great risk to her own life, she travelled to the Crimean War and nursed sick soldiers. She pioneered new ways of treatments for diseases such as typhoid etc. She is considered the founder of modern methods of nursing and her contribution was to create a nursing profession founded on the commitment to patient care, compassion, diligent and thorough keeping of hospital and patient records. She also pioneered a lot of the modern methods of sanitation in patient care. Her nickname came from a newspaper report on her at the time: “She is a ‘ministering angel’ without any exaggeration in these hospitals, and as her slender form glides quietly along each corridor, every poor fellow’s face softens with gratitude at the sight of her. When all the medical officers have retired for the night and silence and darkness have settled down upon those miles of prostrate sick, she may be observed alone, with a little lamp in her hand, making her solitary rounds.”



Events – go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian_era

The Crimean War (1854 – 1856) – Conflict of many nations with Russia over the Holy Land (who had rights to control Jerusalem). This is considered the first 'modern' war and was fought between Russia and England/France/Ottoman Empire (Turkey). No-one won this war and both sides sued for peace.

One famous event of the War that effected Britain was the Charge of the Light Brigade in the Battle of Balaclava by English cavalry commander 'Lord Cardigan'. In this charge, which became synonymous with courage, most of the Brigade was decimated. The charge was immortalized in the extremely famous poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson called 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' which you need to read. Link for the poem:

<http://poetry.eserver.org/light-brigade.html>

Other World Events that effected Victorian England –

Unification of Italy (1866)

Franco-Prussian War (1870-1)

Unification of Germany (1871)

Jack the Ripper – famous serial killer of the Victorian era who killed in the Whitechapel area of London. His identity has never been discovered and 'Jack the Ripper' was a title given to him. His murders created a worldwide media frenzy and there have been many stories written about him and movies made about him.

extensive website on Jack the Ripper <http://www.casebook.org/>

Websites that you will find very useful on the Victorian Period

<http://mural.uv.es/cehevi/victorianlondon.html> Essential reading about Victorian London

<http://mars.wnec.edu/~grempel/courses/wc2/lectures/victoria.html> Essential reading about Victorian London

<http://www.victorianweb.org/> Extensive website on everything Victorian

<http://www.victorianweb.org/history/sochistov.html> Victorian social history

<http://www.victoriana.com/> Extensive website on everything Victorian

<http://www.shelbycs.org/ms/media%20center/victorian%20england/> Excellent website on Victorian England – you must go through every link to get a full picture of life in Victorian times.

<http://www.english.uwosh.edu/roth/VictorianEngland.htm> excellent overview of Victorian era

<http://www.victorianlondon.org/> very detailed website – dictionary of Victorian England

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/trail/> great website – need to click on link to Victorian Britain